

M.M. Secor Trunk Company, Industrial Building
(Northwestern Trunk and Traveling Bag Manufacturing
Company, Industrial Building)
427 Lake Avenue
Racine
Racine County
Wisconsin

HABS No. WI-304-C

HABS
WIS,
SI-RACI,
6-C-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
PO Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS
WIS,
SI-RACI,
6-C-

M.M. SECOR TRUNK COMPANY, INDUSTRIAL BUILDING
(Northwestern Trunk and Traveling Bag Manufacturing Company, Industrial Building)
HABS No. WI-304-C

Location: 427 Lake Avenue, City of Racine, Racine County, Wisconsin

Present Owners: City of Racine

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Vacant

Statement of
Significance:

By the most conservative account, the M. M. Secor Trunk Company was one of the largest trunk and traveling bag manufacturers in Southeastern Wisconsin. It was possibly one of the largest in the country. This building is one of the factory buildings which are remnants of a large industry which once thrived on the lake shore in Racine.

Secor, himself, was important as a major industrialist, a two term mayor, and a source of local amusement. Secor played a significant role in the immigration movement as an employer of his countrymen. He influenced labor history in Racine in pioneering high wages, unionization, and paid vacations.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Date of Erection: c. 1870

Architect: Unknown

Historical Narrative

This building provided space for the iron room, box factory, cutting and finishing areas of the M. M. Secor Trunk Company. The building was probably built in the late 60's or early 1870's. Secor acquired the lot this building stands on in 1868. A similar building is illustrated in the Eads Book of 1864 and this building is on the 1887 Sanborn Map.

After the Secor Trunk Co. went out of business in 1918, the building was acquired by the Arcade Building Corporation and later by Joseph Seft. The George W. Morris Co. acquired the building in 1967 and owned the property until 1981 when it was acquired by the City. The building has been used as incubator manufacturing and business space since shortly after Secor ended operations.

For more detailed information pertaining to M. M. Secor and his Factory, see HABS No. WI-304-A.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

1. Architectural Merit and Interest: None.
2. Condition of Fabric: Poor (to be demolished)
3. Summary Description: This building is constructed of brick (currently painted) and designed in a simple, industrial style similar to that of other buildings in the Secor complex. It has an 85 foot front on Lake Avenue and a depth of 60 feet. The only decorative elements are the projecting brick detailing above the arched windows and the corbelled brick cornice. Some changes have occurred on the ground floor and a window altered on the second floor. A tower on the roof on the north end of the main facade and a central chimney have been added (Sanborn Maps 1887-1894).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXTERIOR

1. Foundation: Rubble and brick.
2. Wall Construction: Brick
3. Structural Systems: Wooden post and beam and wooden floors and roof.
4. Porches, Stoops, Etc.: Not applicable.
5. Openings, Doorways, and Windows: See summary description.
6. Roof - Shape and Covering: Flat

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INTERIOR

The interior is a simple industrial open building with no significant detail.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

The building is located on the east side of Lake Avenue with no setback and is between other buildings. The ground elevation of Lake Avenue is about 13 feet higher than the east elevation which is adjacent to the City's Festival Park now under construction.

SOURCES OF PROJECT INFORMATION

This summary has been prepared by the City of Racine's Department of City Development staff using the "National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form".

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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" " " Jan. 7, 1911

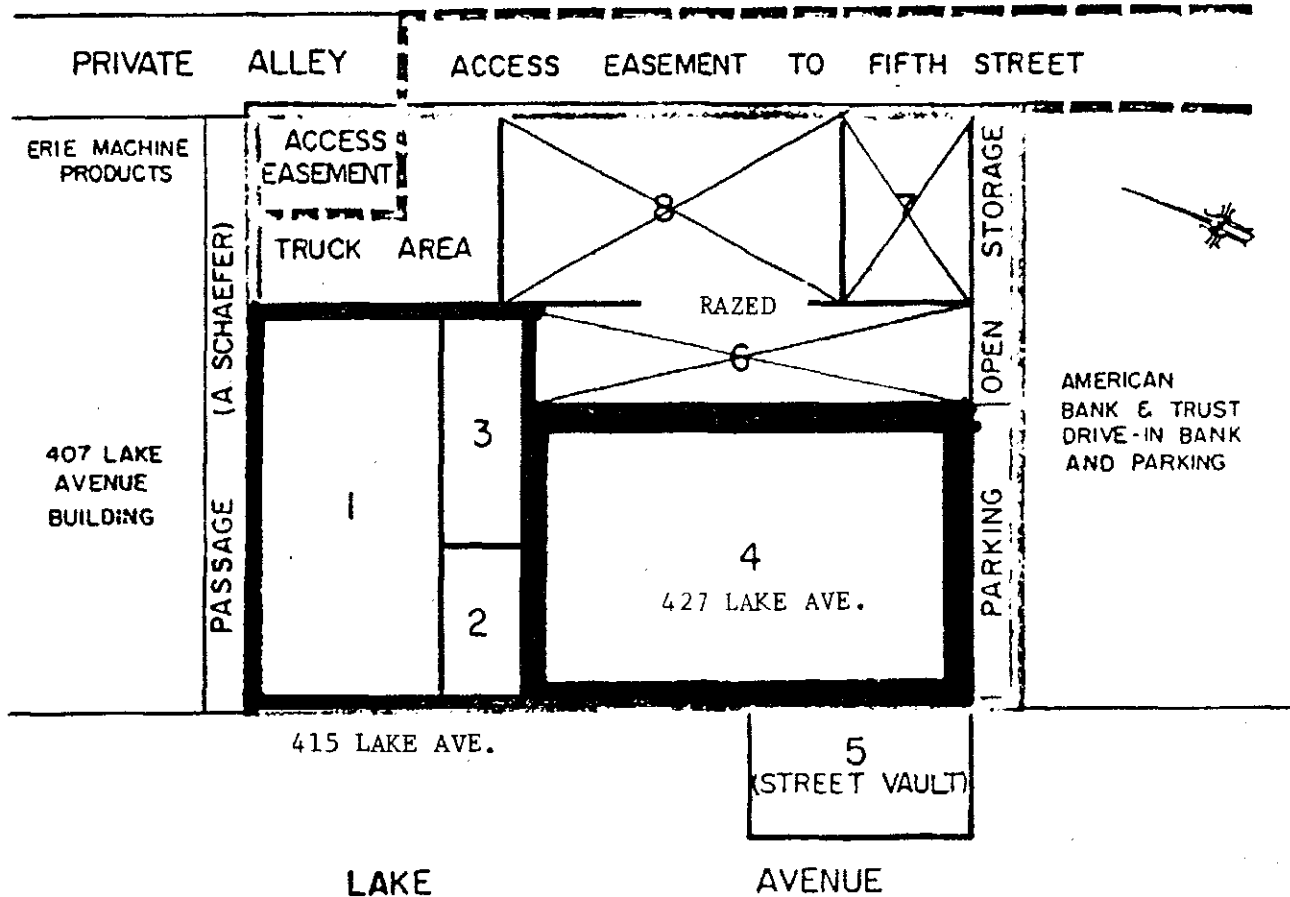
" " " Jan. 9, 1911

Racine Journal Times Jan. 7, 1911

" " " Jan. 9, 1911

Transmitted to the Library of Congress in January, 1988 by Holly K. Chamberlain,
HABS historian.

DON HUTSON CHEVRON-CADILLAC AGENCY



Land Size:

Dimensions 155 Front Feet
120' Depth
Square Foot 18,600

Building Size:

Square Foot 46,229
Cubic Foot 566,608

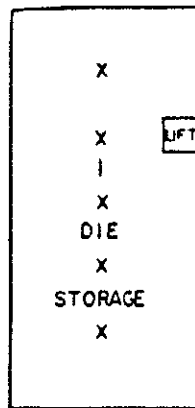
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PROPERTY PLAT

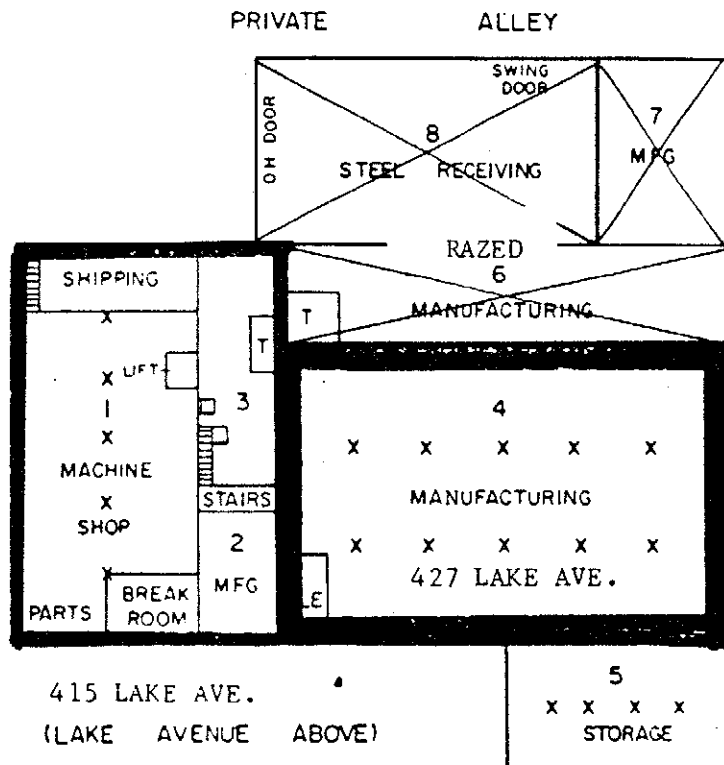
Project: Lakeshore Development
The American Appraisal Company

Parcel No. 1

Secor Building Map
415 and 427 Lake Avenue



BASEMENT



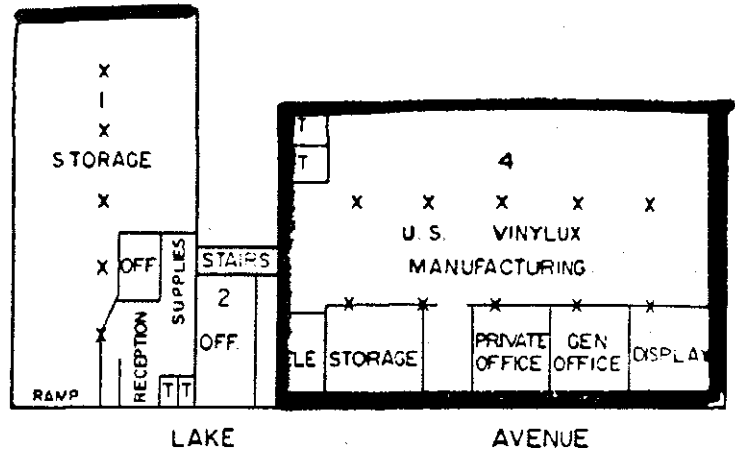
FIRST FLOOR

Front
Floor Plans

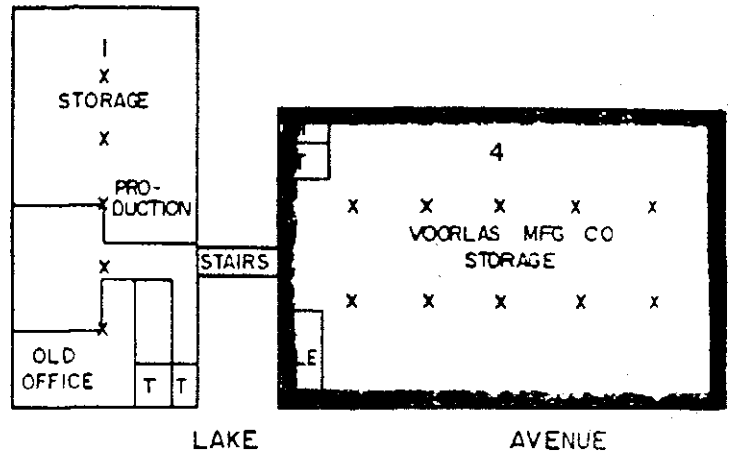
Project: Lakeshore Development
The American Appraisal Company

Parcel No. 8-3

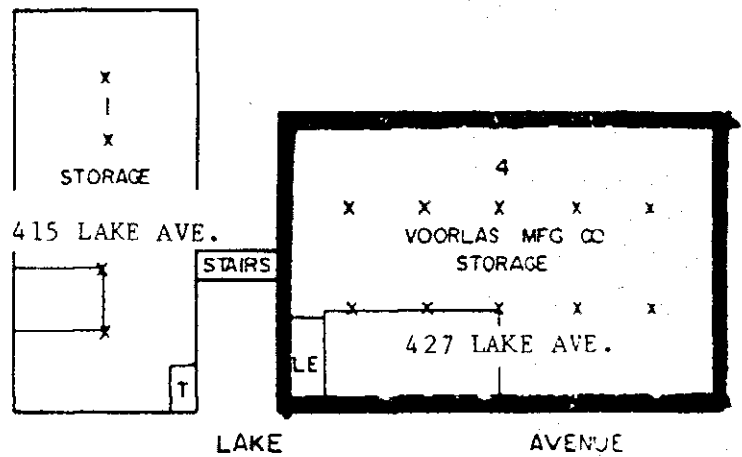
SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



FOURTH FLOOR



Front
 Floor Plans

Project: Lakeshore Development

The American Appraisal Company

Parcel No. 1-3